

TO: Environment Committee
evtestimony@cga.ct.gov

March 11, 2022

RE: **HB5293**

Dear Committee Members: PLEASE support **HB5293** to prohibit the use of wild and exotic animals in traveling circuses in Connecticut.

Evidence and studies show the abusive circus industry and the cruel means it uses to control wild animals. They use whips, chains, electric prods, and a tool known as a bull hook. Bull hooks are commonly used by handlers. They are prods with a razor sharp tool on the end, used to stab animals in vulnerable areas such as private parts, and behind their ears, and legs. If this sounds cruel and barbaric, it is. These barbaric tools are often camouflaged by the handler from public view.

These sentient animals are confined for long periods of travel time in cramped quarters such as box cars and semi trucks. Unable to lie down, and standing in their own feces and urine, without water or food. It is not possible to offload these animals and allow them to relieve themselves, get any exercise or even have a drink of water. It is also common practice to deprive them of water to eliminate urinating while performing.

These brutal and horrific training methods creates a **PUBLIC LIABILITY AND SAFETY** concern. When animals are deprived of sleep, basic nutrition, whipped and pushed beyond their limit, they go berserk causing death and injury to the spectators. These incidents are well documented on www.humanesociety.org (Circus Incidents Attacks, Abuse and Property Damage).

TUBERCULOSIS is a common disease in circus animals, and is transferrable to humans. Because of their size and number of animals, their waste accumulated creates an **environmental issue**. Where is their waste disposed of? City parks? At the venue where they are performing? Along highway routes? Who is monitoring this waste and clean up?

I am imploring you to please support **HB5293** to stop this cruelty to sentient animals all for human entertainment. We are not teaching our children to be kind to animals condoning whipping, beating and using electric pokers on defenseless animals.

Thank you.

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